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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan of 29 May 1998 on the tests of nuclear devices in Pakistan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan

According to reports by international information agencies, a series of nuclear explosions was conducted in Pakistan on 28 May 1998. These actions were received with great concern in Uzbekistan, and are regarded as a serious threat to the regional security of Central Asia and an irresponsible challenge to the entire world community.

There is particular concern over the fact that the nuclear explosions in Pakistan, which borders directly on one of the world's most densely populated regions, the Central Asian region, were conducted following the condemnation by the entire world community of similar tests in India.

It is also deeply distressing that Pakistan, which in the past had called for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, has today radically changed its foreign policy positions. Such a turn of events is capable of leading to a new round of the nuclear-arms race in the region.

Uzbekistan is convinced that the nuclear-weapons tests in South Asia undermine the efforts of the international community to build a stable and safe peace, and that only consistent prohibition of the manufacture and proliferation of nuclear weapons can and must form a reliable basis for universal security on the threshold of the twenty-first century.

As a leading proponent of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and a party to the treaties on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and on a comprehensive nuclear-test ban, Uzbekistan opposes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the world and firmly condemns all nuclear tests, whatever the intentions underlying them.

Uzbekistan requests the Security Council to convene a special meeting and make an assessment of the situation that has arisen in South Asia.

The Government of Uzbekistan calls on the Government of Pakistan to take all necessary measures for the speedy inclusion of Pakistan in the universal nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime defined by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Tashkent
29 May 1998